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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Kohlen et al.

Art Unit: to be assigned

Serial No .: to be assigned

Examiner: to be assigned

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Atty. Docket: 2002P20273WOUS

For: Valve

Confirmation No.: to be assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

United States Patent & Trademark Office Customer Service Window Randolf Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314 USA

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Sir:

Prior to examination upon the merits, the following preliminary amendment is submitted in connection with the above identified patent application. It is respectfully requested that the present preliminary amendment to the specification and claims be entered and appropriately considered by the United States Patent Office.